

# 3-7 News

April/May 2008

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## Winter Sailing

### Tauranga Winter Series

dates are: July 20  
August 3, 17.

### Auckland Sailing Dates

**Priority Ak dates:** August 3, Tauranga; Sept 27, 28, Murrays Bay.  
Serious Aucklanders try to attend these. Lance O'Connell and I should be at Tauranga too, with others. (One can look at weather forecast and drop out!)

**Other Auck Dates:** **MANLY:** July 27, August 24, September 14.  
For those who can manage an extra appearance, and anyone who is free!

## Final 2007 – 08 Result: Grand Prix Trophy

**DEREK SCOTT** - Clear winner with only 14/25 races !

**ALAN PAINE** - Also on 146 points, but with 24/25 races.

### TOTALS

Derek Scott	10,8,9,10,6,9,9,9, 15,12,12,12,12,13 = 146	14 races
Alan Paine	14,10,11,11,13,11, 8,9,6,7,4,7,5,8, 3,3,2,3,2,1,2, 3,2,1 = 146	24 races
John Elliott	13,7,13,11,2,8, 4,7,5,6,3,5,6,3, 1,1,1,1,1,2,1, 2,2,2,3, 3,1,2,2,4,2,2, 4,3, 1,1,3,2,2 = 123	25 races, 39 total, 14 not counted.
Ben de Fluiter	12,13,10,9,10,12, 6,5,2,8,5,6,7,7 = 112	14 races

To score points this season you had to do well in the two big-fleet contests: The North Islands at Tauranga, and the Aucklands at Takapuna at Anzac Weekend. Other contests had too few boats. Only the above 4 people scored reasonable points at both contests. **Nobody else within a bull's roar.**

A total of 25 races was supposed to stop people winning through simply attending more contests than others. At 6 – 7 races a contest, that means 4 contests. Until this last season we had 4 contests that gave decent points, and a good number of people who did the 25 races.

**This past season attendance was so poor at most of our contests that the 2 big contests decided the result.** (10 bonus points to Derek for being so dominant.)

**Worse: I was the only guy to do more than 25 races this season.** Maybe I sailed badly, but this is the first time I have had to count 5 races worth only 2 points each. At some contests you could win, and still have only one or two boats behind you. **But nobody else with 25 races ???**

There is little point in printing the full list of results – the points scored are depressing.

Hoping for better attendance next season. In the meantime, I do not mean to detract from Derek's win.

**Derek has sailed brilliantly, and deserves Bonus Points ....**

**as well as his name on the Grand Prix Trophy.**

## **POSITIVE NEWS**



*No 363 "Bit on the Side" fights off a vicious challenge from behind by No 200 (archives, 1997)*

**A BIT ON THE SIDE....**

A nice bit of news..

Remember **Gavin Laird**, who built no 363 as a school project, and made one of the top plywood hulls in our class? He named it "Bit on the Side", but when his lovely wife started having babies a few years ago, his 3.7 really did move to the side.....

Gavin still loves his bit on the side, but sails it only at the holiday place at Lake Rotoiti.

Where they apparently have a New Year Regatta... Gavin sent me this news earlier in the year:

John, just for your information, "BIT ON THE SIDE" (#363) has once again just enjoyed a summer holiday on the foreshore of Hauparu bay Lake Rotoiti being sailed or at least attended to (due to lack of wind) on a daily basis.

The new year saw our annual light parade of the wooden boat club on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed the next day (including a massive hangover ) by the Lake Rotoiti New Year Regatta.

With this regatta run in a Mark Foy start concept, it has provided an unachievable goal of actually winning it over the last fifteen years or so since I started sailing it, as every known person that can at least keep a boat upright has been penalized over the years.

Despite the hangover conditions and the 40 minute penalty and being the second to last boat to start followed by a 16-foot Yachting World cat (sailed by my father) starting only 5 minutes behind, the conditions were near perfect 3.7 sailing. Fifteen to twenty knots, just off the wind on the first leg, flat off on the second, hard on the wind for the third turning to a broad reach etc.

Aaaany way - end result **No 1**, with the cat still five behind.

Well "Bit On The Side" will return to Auckland this coming weekend, and providing Young Family and of course "The Wife" allow, we will try to make it to some of the upcoming regattas.

Kind Regards,  
**Gavin Laird**

Sadly, wife and family did not quite let Gavin join us. But.....

**A great publicity opportunity missed !**

If I had known about Sail-World NZL at the time, the internet-reading sailing community would have been stunned by the headline:

**3-7 SINGLE-HANDED MONOHULL SKIFF THRASHES ALL COMERS, INCLUDING A LARGE CAT ...**

with, in following paragraphs, lots of adjectives (major, huge, far-reaching) preceding nouns (importance, event, consequences) as well as dumb phrases like "the world will be changed forever."

But dammit, it all happened too soon and too fast, so Gavin will just have to make do with the token recognition this newsletter provides, and the 3-7 Class will have to await a new opportunity for achieving World Dominance.

It would be great to see Gavin again.

**Sailing News** Tauranga series has been OK so far: light, shifty winds for the first two days, then blown out by onshore gale, then I missed the good 10 – 20 knot day just when a big number of 3-7's was due to attend, because forecasts again predicted gales, but on that day the 3 who did turn out (David Laing, Lance O'Connell, and Chris Mitchell) got some great sailing. Forecasts cannot be trusted.  
3 days still to go; see pg 1.

**Aucklanders** also appear to have struck some bad luck: no days of brilliant sailing, except very recently when Chris Mitchell was all by himself at Pt Chev.

Forecasts of gales killed the big turn-out planned at Tauranga.

6 good sailors turned out for the first day at Manly, but not all stayed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> race in shifty airs on a day when strong winds were forecast.

**Our luck must turn** – see future Auckland dates pg 1.

## **Cunning Moves:**

**Phil Ash** has bought No 123, the boat made lightning-fast by Nathan Handley. He will no longer be limited in performance by his aged alloy rig/old Musto sail combo, so we all have to try to sabotage his boat before he leaves the beach.

**Chris Mitchell** has bought No 192 from the Laings (ex-Julia Faire and Matt Davies). This guy will now probably need sabotaging as well.

**Bruce McCallum** is developing a new carbon rig that is different from all the others to date. He wants to try it in secret, in case it is no good.... so if he turns up next season with his old, composite mast, have a good snigger. But if he turns up with a fancy new mast, sabotage his boat as well.

**John Elliott** has begun an attempt to regain former youthful fitness. Yesterday he went for his first slow jog of the year: 31 minutes' worth. Today he feels 5 years older. But just look out – anything could happen in the next few months. No sabotage necessary at this stage.

## **Boats For Sale**

**244** Aussie-built Ian Dixon foam sandwich hull, with good carbon mast and Fyfe sail.  
\$3,000 contact Chris Mitchell [Chris@aes.net.nz](mailto:Chris@aes.net.nz)

**305** Foam sandwich hull built at Clarks Beach just before the Ian Dixon batch of 1981 – 82.  
Rarely used. Probably with an alloy mast and Must sail. Phil has not told me he wants to sell this one yet, but his email address is [ashland@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ashland@ihug.co.nz)

**323** Foam sandwich hull of Ian Dixon 1982 build, not overly used. Alloy mast, Dacron sail. For more details contact Richard Sutherland-Smith, Wanganui,  
Phone 06 – 345 33 35 email [richardss@clear.net.nz](mailto:richardss@clear.net.nz)

**381** Top Boat – 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2008 Nationals. Gear: 2 x Fyfe Sails (Chris Skinner made).  
C-Tech Mast and Boom. Foils – 1 x Rudder, 2 x Centreboard. Keith Paine Hull – 6 years old.  
Hull Weight: 51kg (with ropes attached). Beach Trolley.  
**\$8200 o.n.o** Contact: Alan Paine. Phone: 027 412 0023  
Email: [alanpaine@gmail.com](mailto:alanpaine@gmail.com)

**Mast** stiff, Fosters section. What offers? Gavin Laird, [gavinandwendy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gavinandwendy@xtra.co.nz)

**Keep smiling. Next newsletter will contain boring Finance Report !**

John Elliott